STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Bomb Explosion at the R.S.S. Headquarters at Madras on 8-8-1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Madam, as per the information received from the State Government, an explosion occurred in the office of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh at No. 1 and 2, M.V. Naidu Street, Chetpet, Madras, on 08-08-93 at 13.45 hours. This explosion ripped through the vital columns of the building premises and brought down the ceiling of the first and second floor halls. Caretaker of the RSS office and some members of the organisation, who were then in the premises, bore the burnt of the explosion.

On receipt of information, the Commissioner of Police and his personnel, along with Fire Brigade personnel, rushed to the blast site and started relief operations. They discovered 16 persons from the shattered building. Of them, 11 persons were declared dead. The bodies of 10 persons have been identified and enquiries are being made to identify the remaining deadbody. Of the nine injured persons 5 were treated as in-patients and 4 as out-patients.

On a complaint from Thiru Srinivasan, Organiser, Madras District Hindu Munnani a criminal case in F-5 Chetpet Police Station Crime No. 1137/93, u/s 120-B, 302, 326, 153-A IPC, section 9(b) (1) (a) (b) of Indian Explosives Act, 1884 and Section 3 and 4 of Explosive Substances Act, 1908 has been registered. The State Crime Branch, C.I.D., has taken up the investigation of the case. Sniffer dogs have been used to find out the cause of the explosion. Central Govt. Forensic experts have reached the State, to provide expert evaluation.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has announced an exgratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh each of the families of those who were killed and Rs. 10,000/- to those who were injured in the blast.

The State Government has alerted the district administration to take immediate steps to maintain law and order and communal harmony. It has instructed the Administrative and Police officers to provide full bandobust to all religious and other institutions including Government buildings and to intensify patrolling to ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

I would like to inform the House that in the first week of July 1993, I along with senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs had visited the State and held discussions with the Chief Minister and State Govt. officials on the security scenario and urged the State Govt. to take adequate precautionary measures to ensure against acts of militancy taking place.

Along with the officials of my Ministry, I visited the site of the explosion, at Madras, on 9th August 1993 and held discussions with the Chief Minister and other State Govt. officials. The Chief Minister had also visited the site of the explosion. During discussions the State Govt. officials showed me a small container with some used explosive, copper wire and transformer which were recovered from the site. The explosion did not appear to have been caused by use of RDX explosive. However, explosive experts would be able to determine the nature of the explosion.

On my enquiring about the security arrangements in the building, the State Govt. officials informed that it was guarded by the State Police personnel till the ban on RSS was in force. I was told that after the revocation of the ban, the RSS office bearers did not allow the State Police personnel to guard the premises and stated that their own volunteers will guard the building.

We have offered the State Government all assistance to enable expeditious investigation of the case and apprehension of the culprits. The Chief Minister, during discussions, suggested that the case may be investigated by the CBI. Considering the nature of the explosion, it is felt that the State Police can efficiently investigate the case. However, if the preliminary investigations by the State Govt. reveal wider ramifications, calling for a CBI probe, we shall review the matter.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहिबा, मिनिस्टर साहब के आपके अपने बयान से तीन छोटे-छोटे सवालात हैं। एक तो हम जानना चाहते हैं कि आप क्या नतीजा वहां से ले कर आए हैं?

What you were told is not important for us.

आप क्या नतीजा लेकर आए हैं? मसलन यह कहना कि,

"The RSS office-bearers did not allow the State Police personnel to guard the premises."

तो क्या हम इस नतीजे पर पहुंच चुके हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में या किसी भी स्टेट में या किसी शहर में सैक्योरिटी का सवाल वह किसी के एलाउ करने या न करने पर मबनी होगा? एक सवाल तो मेरा यह है और यह भी इस बैकग्राउंड में है कि जबकि आप ही लोगों ने आपकी अपनी इंटेलीजेंस की खबर के बावजूद कि आर०डी०एक्स० वहां आ चुका है और सिर्फ सीधा-सादा एक एक्सप्लोइज़न का सवाल नहीं है।

It has some external ramifications to be taken note of.

उसके बाद इतनी लाइटली यह कह देना कि आर०एस०एस० के वालंटीयर्स ने कहा है, इजाजत नहीं दी कि हम उसकी हिफ़ाजत करेंगे, तो क्या हिन्दुस्तान से, स्टेट से सैक्योरिटी का सवाल खत्म हो जाए? एक तो मेरा सवाल यह है। दूसरा सवाल यह है कि आपने कहा है कि इट एपीयर्स कि आर०डी०एक्स० शायद उस एक्सप्लोइज़न में इस्तेमाल नहीं किया गया है। क्या मतलब हुआ, तीन दिन हो गए हैं, अभी तक इतना भी नहीं बता सके कि किस किस्म का एक्सप्लोसिव मैटीरियल उसमें इस्तेमाल किया गया? अभी तक कौन सो रहा है? क्या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की जिम्मेदारी है या यह कि आप भी वहां से प्रोपर नतीजे लेकर नहीं आ सके हैं?

तीसरी बात यह है कि यह सी०बी० आई० के बारे में जो आपने कहा है, अब अफज़ल साहब ने आपके पिछले सवाल के सिलसिले में एक बात कही थी कि आपका एटीट्यूड जब कलकत्ते में कुछ बंगाल में हुआ तो आपका एटीट्यूड मुख्तलिफ था और जब उस स्टेट में हुआ कि जहां कांग्रेस की सरकार है आपका एटीट्यूड बिल्कुल मुख्तलिफ है। बम्बई में जब सवाल था, आपने मुतालबा किया था कि यह सी०बी०आई० के सुपुर्द इन्क्वायरी की जाए और चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब वहां रजिस्ट कर रहे थे तो आपके और उनके दरम्यान रस्सा-कशी चल रही थी। यहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने मुतालबा किया है कि इन्क्वायरी सी०बी०आई० से कराई जाए और आप कहते हैं कि लोकल पुलिस इन्वेस्टीगेशन के लिए काफी है। यह किस किस्म के नतीजे आप निकालते हैं? आप उस एक्सप्लोइज़न को बहुत सरसरी नज़र से मेहरबानी से न देखिए, यह उसके बड़े लंबे-चौड़े रैमिफिकेशंस हैं। सी०बी०आई० से मेरा कुछ बहुत ज्यादा एतमाद नहीं है, लेकिन क्या करें, हमारे पास कोई चारा-ए-कार नहीं है कि हम सी०बी०आई० की इन्क्वायरी के अलावा किसी महकमें का नाम ले नहीं सकते। इसलिए हम लोगों ने यहां सब ने हाउस में मुतालबा किया है कि इन्क्वायरी सी०बी०आई० के सुपुर्द की जाए। आप यह कहते हैं कि वहां की पुलिस कर लेगी।

ایس۔ ایس کے والنٹیرس نے کہا ہے۔ اجازت نہیں دی کہ ہم اس کی حفاظت کریں گے تو کیا ہندوستان سے۔ اسٹیٹ سے سیکیورٹی کا سوال ختم ہو جائے۔ ایک تو میرا سوال یہ ہے۔ دوسرا سوال یہ ہے کہ آپ نے کہا ہے کہ "اٹ اپیئرس کہ آر۔ ڈی۔ ایکس شائد اس ایکسپلوزن میں استعمال نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔ کیا مطلب ہوا۔ تین دن ہو گئے ہیں۔ ابھی تک اتنا بھی نہیں بتا سکے کہ کس قسم کا ایکسپلوسیو میٹریل اس میں استعمال کیا گیا ابھی تک کون سوچ رہا ہے۔ کیا اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹ کی ذمہ داری ہے یا یہ کہ آپ بھی وہاں سے پروپر نتیجہ لے کر نہیں آسکے ہیں۔

تیسری بات یہ ہے کہ یہ سی۔ بی۔ آئی کے بارے میں جو آپ نے کہا ہے۔ اب افضل صاحب نے آپ کے پچھلے سوال کے سلسلے میں ایک بات کہی تھی کہ آپ کا ایٹی ٹیوڈ جب کلکتہ میں کچھ بنگال میں ہوا تھا تو آپ کا ایٹی ٹیوڈ مختلف تھا۔ اور جب اس اسٹیٹ منٹ میں ہوا کہ جہاں کانگریس کی سرکار ہے آپ کا ایٹی ٹیوڈ بالکل مختلف ہے۔ بمبئی میں جب سوال تھا۔ آپ نے مطالبہ کیا تھا کہ یہاں سی۔ بی۔ آئی۔ کے سپرد انکوائری کی جائے اور چیف منسٹر صاحب وہاں رزسٹ کر رہے تھے تو آپکے

तो मेहरबानी से, ये मेरे तीन मामूली से सवालात हैं, इनका आप जवाब दीजिए।

†[شری سکندر بخت "مدھیہ پردیش": صدر صاحبہ۔ منسٹر صاحب کے آپ کے اپنے بیان سے تین چھوٹے چھوٹے سوالات ہیں۔ ایک تو ہم جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ آپ کیا نتیجہ وہاں سے لے کر آئے ہیں۔]

What you were told is not important for us.

†[آپ کیا نتیجہ لے کر آئے ہیں۔ مثلاً یہ کہنا کہ۔]

"The RSS office-bearers did not allow the State police personnel to guard the premises."

†[تو کیا ہم اس نتیجہ پر پہنچ چکے ہیں کہ ہندوستان میں یا کسی بھی اسٹیٹ میں یا کسی شہر میں سیکیورٹی کا سوال وہ کسی کے الاؤ کرنے یا نہ کرنے پر مبنی ہوگا۔ ایک سوال تو میرا یہ ہے اور یہ بھی اس بیک گراؤنڈ میں ہے کہ جبکہ آپ ہی لوگوں نے آپ کی اپنی انٹلی جنس کی خبر کے باوجود کہ آر۔ ڈی ایکس وہاں آچکا ہے اور صرف سیدھا سادا ایک ایکسپلوزن کا سوال نہیں ہے۔]

It has some external ramifications to be taken note of.

†[اس کے بعد اتنی لائٹلی یہ کہہ دینا کہ آر۔

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic Script.

اور ان کے درمیان رسّہ کسی چل رہی تھی یہاں کے چیف منسٹر نے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ انکوائری سی۔بی۔آئی سے کروائی جائے اور آپ کہتے ہیں کہ لوکل پولیس انوسٹی گیشن کے لئے کافی ہے۔ یہ کسی قسم کے نتیجے آپ نکالتے ہیں۔ آپ اس ایکسپلائزن کو بہت سرسری نظر سے مہربانی سے نہ دیکھئے۔ یہ اس کے بڑے لمبے چوڑے ریمی فیکیشن ہیں۔ سی۔ بی۔آئی سے میرا کچھ بہت زیادہ اعتماد نہیں ہے۔ لیکن کیا کریں۔ ہمارے پاس کوئی چارہ کار نہیں ہے کہ ہم سی۔بی۔آئی کی انکوائری کے علاوہ کسی محکمہ کا نام لے نہیں سکتے۔ اس لئے ہم لوگوں نے یہاں سب نے ہاؤس میں مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ انکوائری سی۔بی۔آئی کے سپرد کی جائے۔ آپ یہ کہتے کہ وہاں کی پولیس کرے گی۔

تو مہربانی سے یہ میرے تین سوالات ہیں۔ ان کا آپ جواب دیجئے۔ شکریہ۔]

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन, मैं उसी प्रश्न को जो मेरे वरिष्ठ सहयोगी ने उठाया है, आप कहते हैं कि,

"Considering the nature of the explosion, it is felt that the State Police can efficiently investigate the case."

यह आपका जाति मत है, किसका मत है ? यह कहते हैं इट इज फैल्ट, मुख्य मंत्री कह रहे हैं कि सी०बी०आई० की इन्क्वायरी कराइये और आपका जवाब है,

It is felt by whom? Who felt it? Who is he?

आप हैं, प्रधान मंत्री हैं अथवा कोई आफिसर हैं, यह कौन हैं, इसका सीधा जवाब चाहिए? यह राजनीतिक जवाब नहीं चाहिए । समाचार-पत्र में यही छपा है आपके नाम से, हालांकि मैं यह नहीं कह सकता, आप सही बता सकते हैं कि ऐसे तो हर मामले की इन्क्वायरी सी०बी०आई० करेगा । आप इस मामले को छोटा दिखाना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि आपको लगता है कि बम्बई, कलकत्ता जैसा इसको सरकार ने स्वीकार कर लिया तो सैन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट की जिम्मेदारी बढ़ेगी इसको छोटा करके आप क्यों दिखा रहे हैं ?

अगला आपने कहा है कि,

"I would like to inform the House that in the first week of July 1993 I went there."

आपसे बात-चीत की, ठीक है । आपने बात-चीत में क्या सलाह दी, यह बताइये और केन्द्र सरकार ने अपनी ओर से क्या करने का निश्चय किया ? जब आपने जाकर उनको सलाह दी कि आप ईफैक्टिव स्टैप्स लें, तो आपके दिमाग में खतरा क्या था और आपने सैन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने क्या किया था ? दूसरे इसमें आपने जिम्मेदारी सारी प्रांतीय सरकार पर डालने की कोशिश की है तिरछे तरीके से । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस सारे मामले में केन्द्र सरकार स्वयं क्या करना चाहती है? क्या कर रही है या पल्ला झाड़ करके अलग खड़े हो जाना चाहती है ? आप संकीर्ण राजनीति से ऊपर उठें और एक जिम्मेदार केन्द्र

के गृह मंत्री के नाते से इसके अखिल भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य में क्या-क्या परिणाम हो सकते हैं, उस तरह से मुझे जवाब देने की कृपा करें।]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri V. Gopalsamy. Now, I have a request to make. We already had a long discussion. Therefore, please ask your questions on the statement alone.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, may I know from the Minister of State for Internal Security, at what point of time did he receive the information from the State Government? I am asking this because this incident took place at 1.45 p.m. According to the news which appeared in the press, ...

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है । एक माननीय सदस्य सो रहे हैं जबकि सदन की प्रक्रिया के अनुसार कोई सदस्य सदन में सो नहीं सकता ।

श्री विश्वजित पृथ्वीराज सिंह (महाराष्ट्र): आपको यह कहने की आदत पड़ गयी है कि मैं सो रहा हूं ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: अब आप उठ गए हैं, इसलिए मैं इसे वापिस ले रहा हूं ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): He is relaxing.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: I am not sleeping.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Shankar Dayal Singh, I am putting serious questions. I am very sorry about it.

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): When the Government is sleeping, you do not have any complaint, but when an hon. Member is sleeping, you want to complain about it. It is unfair.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Let us not deviate. May I know at what point of time did you receive the information because the incident took place at 1.45 p.m.? It is reported that you informed the press at Madras that you received the information at 2.45 p.m. In that case, I would like to know at what time the Chief Minister started her travel from the airport. Is it not a fact that the Chief Minister, after knowing about the bomb blast, proceeded to Dindigul for her election campaign in a helicopter? She has said that she did not know the gravity of the bomb blast.

According to your statement, the Commissioner of Police rushed to the spot, the blast site, and discovered 16 persons from the shattered building; of them, 11 persons were declared dead. Therefore, within 15 minutes, i.e. at 2 p.m. itself, the police came to know that 11 persons were dead and many others were grievously injured. Despite the fact that this was reported, it was informed by the police, the Chief Minister left for Dindigul and not for the blast site.

Then, there is no mention in this statement about the visit of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Chenna Reddy, to the blast site. He was the first man to visit the site. According to the spokesman of the Raj Bhavan, they were informed by the Chief Secretary only at 5 in the evening, i.e. nearly three hours after the blast. In that case, the Chief Secretary deliberately and wantonly blacked out the news and did not inform the Raj Bhavan much earlier. When he came to know about the blast, the Governor rushed to the site.

Hearing the news that the Governor had rushed to the blast site, had visited the place, and also the news that Mr. Rajesh Pilot, the Minister of State for Internal Security, on instructions from the Prime Minister, had also rushed to Madras, she realised that she had committed a blunder in going to Dindigul. Therefore, the next day,—not on the same day—she visited the site of the bomb blast. This has been mentioned in the statement. First of all, the Chief Minister has ignored, rather, recklessly and callously neglected, her duty in not visiting the blast site immediately. Subsequently, she suggested

[Sh. V. Gopalsamy]

to the Minister of State for Home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, that the case may be investigated by the C.B.I. This shows...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, please put your question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am framing the question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A very long frame you are making.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, I am putting the questions only from the statement. What does she mean? Has she lost confidence in the capability of the Tamil Nadu police because on the one hand, the Chief Minister suggests the case to be investigated by the CBI and on the other the Minister of State for Internal Security says that it is a fit case which can effectively be investigated by the local police? So, the people should know the reasons why she wanted to hand over the case to the CBI. Madam, because of the irresponsible attitude of the Chief Minister...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have stated this before. You frame your question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The people of Tamil Nadu are very much concerned about this. Therefore, I have asked these two specific questions; by what time they received the information and by what time the Governor was informed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, not there. Shri John Fernandes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where are you? If you roam around the House, how do I know? That is why I requested you to remain in your place. (*Interruptions*).

Just one minute, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta; just one minute, Mr. Fernandes. The presence of the Minister for Surface Transport reminds me of something which is listed in the List of Business. It is very late.

Since the strike of the truck drivers is withdrawn, I think we can release the Minister also. What is the point in having clarifications?

SHRI M.A. BABY: Only if the Minister wants to be released. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the Minister gives me a bulldozer, I will bulldoze it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Meghalaya): He can go and we congratulate him. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now that is over. First I will call Mr. Fernandes and then I will call you. (*Interruptions*). I do not know. Let it come first. I will use it in the House. (*Interruptions*). I have written your name.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): What about my name? My name is being dropped.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, everyone will agree with me that this incident is connected with the incident that took place on 6th December. In para 7 of the statement the hon. Minister has mentioned that a small container with some used explosive, copper wire and transformer were discovered from the site. This shows that the explosion was very powerful. At the same time, the hon. Minister says that RDX was not used. I do not know how he has come to this conclusion. After the 12th March incident of bombing in Bombay it was reported that 1500 kilos of RDX was missing and it was heading towards the north of the country. So far I think this explosive has not been traced. I feel, there is every possibility of this explosive being transported to different parts of the country. Therefore, I would like to know whether they have traced this 1500 kilos, of explosive.

Secondly, last night the TV mentioned that the debris has not yet been cleared from the site of the incident and there is a possibility of more bodies being found. This statement is based on the incident of 8th. I would like to know whether there is any latest information about the loss of life, if any more bodies have been recovered from the debris.

Again it is mentioned in para 8 that the RSS officebearers did not permit the Government to station the police. In view of the situation being very sensitive, may I know whether the Intelligence Bureau of the Central Government and the State police had any surveillance over the premises? I can understand the police being not allowed to enter the premises, but what about the surveillance of the premises by the IB? Did the Government have any information about the conspiracy?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, in para 6 it is stated, "I would like to inform the House that in the first week of July 1993, I along with senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs had visited the State and held discussions with the Chief Minister." I would like to know why this visit to Tamil Nadu was necessary. Why did he visit? Is it because the hon. Minister had prior information that some sort of gang-up was going to take place and, therefore, in order to forewarn the Government that he visited Tamil Nadu? Otherwise, what was the reason for his visit?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Visited where?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In the sixth para he has stated that he has visited Tamil Nadu and held consultations. I would like to know why he has visited Tamil Nadu. Was it on the basis of some prior information or what?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): He had a premonition.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The second question is, this is the third blast, in the third metropolis of the country. First it was Bombay, then Calcutta and then Madras. Therefore, my second question is, does the Minister believe that there is an inter-connection between the three blasts? Why this co-incidence that in such a short span of time three blasts took place?

The third question is, is the Ministry of Home Affairs aware that there was a report that a part of the RDX which they could not discover, which they could not detect, had gone to an unknown place? Therefore, do they believe that a part of this has gone to Tamil Nadu? Tamil Nadu is a very sensitive area. It was here, in this area, that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was killed. Here, in this area, is the base, the springboard of the operations of a number of insurgent groups. Therefore, do you have any idea that the RDX was sent there? If you had the idea, what pre-emptive action had you taken?

My fourth question: Have you sent your experts there or are you relying on the experts of the State? I think the Government should have sent its own experts on bomb blasts.

My fifth question is, this blast in the headquarters of the RSS may have a fallout on the secular environment of the country because people may be given to understand that this is a part of the aggressive posture being adopted towards a number of organizations. You know what those organizations are. This organization was under a ban. Therefore, if the Government is aware of the fallout, of the wider ramifications of the blast that has taken place in the RSS headquarters, what steps is the Government going to take to ensure that it does not result in a situation where the fragile secular environment of the country is disturbed once again?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I have only three short questions. In para 6 the Minister has stated that he had advised the State Government of Tamil Nadu, in July, to take adequate precautionary measures to ensure against acts of militancy taking place. This is a very generalized statement. Was it based on any substantive information? Since he was referring to militancy, did he have any specific kind of militancy in view when he tendered such advice to the State Government?

The second question is based on para 7. The Minister says, apparently RDX was

[Sh. S. Jaipal Reddy]

not used in this explosion. Yet, he hastens to add that this would be known finally after the experts give their opinion. But what has prompted the Minister to come out with this premature conclusion? What was the basis of this personal hunch of the Minister?

The third question is based on para 8 of his statement. Normally, whenever we demand a CBI inquiry, the Home Ministry would keep telling us that they didn't have any power to order a CBI inquiry unless the Chief Minister concerned agreed to it. When Members in both the Houses of Parliament demanded an inquiry by the CBI following the blasts in Bombay, the Ministry stated that it was helpless because the Chief Minister of Maharashtra at that time, at the initial stage, was resisting an inquiry by the CBI. Later on he also fell in line, and you ordered a CBI inquiry into it. That is another matter.

Here a different yardstick is being adopted. Why is it that a different yardstick is being adopted only in the case of the blast in Madras? Here is a Chief Minister who came forward to get these things enquired into by the CBI for whatever reasons, may be for the reasons enumerated by Mr. Gopalsamy. Whatever may be the reasons, but why are you hesitating to agree to the request of the Chief Minister?

Some of these doubts should be dispelled in the course of reply by the Minister.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister just two aspects. Other things have been mostly covered.

Number one, the whole statement proceeds on the basis that the building in Madras, referred to, is just an office. Is the Minister aware that the building is used as the residence of the RSS and the Hindu Munnani leaders permanently? This is a very material factor.

Number two is the Minister aware of two public statements? One is a statement made by one Palani Baba just a few days back that he would see to it that this RSS Headquarters was destroyed and that the Kanchi Mutt building was also destroyed. He had made this statement openly only a few days back. Is the Minister aware of this fact?

I have mentioned about the fact that this building is being used as a permanent residence of some leaders of organisations like the Hindu Munnani. The leader of the Hindu Munnani, Shri Ram Gopal, resides in this building. There have been a number of incidents of attack on him. In Coimbatore, there was an attempt even to murder Shri Ram Gopal, the leader of the Hindu Munnani, who is residing in this building. There was a public declaration that an *inam* of Rs. 2 lakhs would be given to whoever bumped off Shri Ram Gopal, the Hindu Munnani leader who is residing in this building. This angle has been brought to the notice of the Minister. I would like to know whether this has also been taken into account.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, while such incidents are repeatedly happening right from Bombay and Calcutta to Madras, precious little is being done by the Government to see that these do not occur in other parts of the country. It has become a practice with the Government to come out with some statement or the other.

It appears that it has its own ramifications in other parts of the country also. So, what steps does the Government propose to take to avert such situations in other parts of the country?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you for being brief. I hope others will follow the same. I would be very happy.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: The idea of the last paragraph on the first page, perhaps, might be all right but the language used is not that all right. It says:

> "It has instructed the Administrative and Police officers to provide full bandobust...."

The English people took this term from India and used it differently at different

times. It is liable to be misunderstood Better avoid it.

Secondly, — it is not there in the Statement, but it has come in the Press—You declined conduct of the inquiry by the CBI as suggested by the Chief Minister of the State. You must be aware even your party Chief Minister in Maharashtra was reluctant to hand over the Bombay blast inquiry, which was a much bigger affair, to the CBI. And here he had an explanation to offer on the matter that there was no attempt to hide something or put something under the carpet. After all CBI is coming to be everything to everybody, but in this particular case I would like to know whether you declined to accept her offer only because it was the Chief Minister who made the offer. That is it was for the State to make the proposal. If at all it was not for the Minister for Internal Security to make the offer. So, primacy of the offer perhaps stood in the way and for resolving that difficulty the issue may be handed over to the CBI merely for the reason that we have been hearing stories. Perhaps it is not a story, but there is some relation to the fact that some subversive elements—call them fundamentalist, militants or ISI or other things—are active throughout the country. The Presidency Town which was so long exempt from this type of a blast has at least to tell that this blemisn does not attach to them. When that happens, it is essential that the Government of India's competent Central agency takes up that inquiry seriously without confining themselves just to who made the offer on the issue.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to ask only two questions. It is stated in the statement that there was a meeting in July. I want to put a specific question to the Minister. During the course of the last July meeting, whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister had given an assurance to set up two more naval detachments for South of Rameshwaram and North of Nagapatnam as demanded by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? May I know on what date you have ordered for the same?

Secondly—I have got a specific question—what is the hitch in ordering a CBI inquiry into the bomb blast at Madras as demanded by our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? Why does he run away from his responsibility? Ordering of a CBI inquiry will indeed help the Centre to bring to book the culprits responsible for various bomb blasts in the country. Therefore, I want an assurance from the Minister that the Centre would order a CBI inquiry.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से तीन बातें जानना चाहता हूं । पहली बात तो यह है कि जैसा कि हमने अखबारों में पढ़ा कि वजीरे आजम ने इस मामले को बहुत अहम समझा और आपको हिदायत दी वहां जाने की लेकिन आप जब वहां पहुंचे और आपने जो कुछ भी अपने स्टेटमेंट में लिखा है, उससे यह नतीजा निकलता है कि आपको यह मामला इतना अहम नहीं लगा कि इसकी इंक्वायरी सी०बी०आई० से कराई जाए। आपने एक जगह लिखा है कि—

"The explosion did not appear to have been caused by use of RDX explosives."

उसी में आपने लिखा है कि—

"Considering the nature of the explosion, it is felt that the State police can efficiently investigate the case."

कई मेम्बरान ने यह बात उठाई कि जिस तरह से बम्बई में बस बलास्ट हुए कलकत्ता में हुए उसकी एक तीसरी कड़ी इसको इशारतन कहा है । लेकिन आपके इस स्टेटमेंट से कम से कम यह जाहिर होता है कि आपके ख्याल में आरडीएक्स इसमें इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ । इसका नेचर ऐसा नहीं है कि जिससे पता लगे फारेन हैंड है या नहीं है । गालेबन आपने इसको इसलिए जरूरी समझा कि इसकी

[श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल]

सीबीआई इंक्वायरी कराने के बजाय स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को इसकी इंक्वायरी के लिए कहा जाए । तो क्या आप यह समझते हैं कि बम्बई और कलकत्ता के अंतर जिस किस्म के ब्लास्ट हुए थे मद्रास का ब्लास्ट वैसा नहीं है और उसका उससे कोई तालुक नहीं है ।

दूसरी बात आपने कॉलम 6 में जो लिखा है उसे मैं समझ नहीं पाया । कॉलम 6 में आपने अपने बारे में बताया है कि आप एक महीने पहले जुलाई में वहां गये थे । इस कॉलम को देने का मकसद क्या है इस तरफ जयपाल रेड्डी जी ने और गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी ने भी इस तरफ इशारा किया तो क्या आपका जो पैरा 6 है इसका कोई पालिटिकल इंटेन्शन तो नहीं है ? मैं आपको याद दिलाऊं कि जब भी इस किस्म के स्टेटमेंट आते हैं तो होम मिनिस्टर अमूमन वही चीजें यहां पर बताते हैं जो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट देती है । लेकिन पिछले दिनों में कलकत्ता की फायरिंग पर जो स्टेटमेंट आई वह सिर्फ ज्योति बासु और उनकी सरकार ने जो कुछ बताया वहीं नहीं बल्कि यूथ कांग्रेस की राय भी अपनी स्टेटमेंट के अंदर दी जिस पर बहुत सारे मेम्बर एजिटेटेड हुए थे । मैं बिल्कुल इसको जायज समझता हूं । जो आपने यह स्टेटमेंट दिया था उसकी रोशनी में दिया । आरएसएस के लोगों ने जो राय दी है इस एक्सप्लोजन के बारे में आपको उसको भी इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए था । तो ऐसा क्यों नहीं किया? यह आपने दो स्टेण्डर्ड किस लिए बनाये हैं ? क्या इसलिए कि जहां सरकार कांग्रेस की होगी वहां आपकी इंटेन्शन दूसरी होगी और जहां गैर कांग्रेस सरकार होगी वहां स्टेटमेंट दूसरी होगी ?

आखिर में एक बात और मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि बम्बई के अंदर जो बम ब्लास्ट हुए उसका पहला निशाना था शिव सेना का दफ्तर । शिव सेना के दफ्तर पर यह हुआ था । कलकत्ता में ऐसा नहीं हुआ । मद्रास में आर एसएस के दफ्तर में ब्लास्ट हुआ । मध्य प्रदेश के अंदर कुछ दिन पहले एक मैम्बर पार्लियामेंट, सीटिंग मैम्बर के घर पर बम ब्लास्ट हुआ था । क्या सरकार ने गौर किया है कि उस मैम्बर के घर पर होने वाला ब्लास्ट और मद्रास में होने वाला ब्लास्ट एक ही नेचर का है ? क्या इस पर सरकार गौर करेगी और क्या स्टेट को हिदायत देगी कि इस पहलू से जायजा लिया जाए ?

आखिर में यह कहूंगा कि आरएसएस के दफ्तर में हमला हुआ है और खुद आरएसएस के लीडर्स और हमारे बीजेपी के लीडर्स के इस सिलसिले में काफी बयानात आये हैं । यह बड़ा ही तशवीसनाक मामला हैं । इस मामले से बम्बई को बहुत से लोग जोड़ रहे हैं, कलकत्ता को जोड़ रहे हैं । दिल्ली और दूसरे बड़े शहरों में आरएसएस के दफ्तर हैं तो अगर आरएसएस वाले खुद मना करें कि हम को सेक्योरिटी नहीं चाहिए तब भी क्या आप सेक्योरिटी लगायेंगे और सेन्ट्रल इंटेलीजेंस एजेंसी से आरएसएस के दफ्तरों पर नजर रखेंगे ? अगर रखेंगे तो बतायें और नहीं रखेंगे तो बतायें ।

† آخری محمد افضل عرف م۔ افضل: اتر پردیش: میڈم۔ میں منسٹر صاحب سے تین باتیں جاننا چاہتا ہوں۔ پہلی بات تو یہ ہے کہ جیسا کہ ہم

†[ ]Translation in Arabic Script.

اس کی انکوائری کرانے کے لئے کہا جائے۔ تو کیا آپ یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ بمبئی اور کلکتہ کے اندر جس قسم کے بلاسٹ ہوتے تھے مدراس کا بلاسٹ ویسا نہیں ہے اور اس کا اس سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے۔

دوسری بات آپ نے کالم ۶ میں جو لکھا ہے اسے میں سمجھ نہیں پایا۔ کالم ۶ میں آپ نے اپنے بارے میں بتایا ہے کہ آپ ایک مہینہ پہلے جولائی میں وہاں گئے تھے۔ اس کالم کو دینے کا مقصد کیا ہے اس طرف جے پال ریڈی جی نے اور گورداس داس گپتا جی نے بھی اس طرف اشارہ کیا ہے تو کیا آپکا جو بیرا ۶ ہے اس کا کوئی پولیٹیکل اٹینشن تو نہیں ہے۔ میں آپ کو یاد دلاؤں کہ جب بھی اس قسم کے اسٹیٹ منٹ آتے ہیں تو ہوم منسٹر عموماً وہی چیزیں یہاں پہ بتاتے ہیں جو اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹ دیتی ہے۔ لیکن پچھلے دنوں میں کلکتہ کی فائرنگ پر جو اسٹیٹ منٹ آئی وہ صرف جیوتی بسو اور انکی سرکار نے جو کچھ بتایا وہی نہیں بلکہ لیفٹ کا لکریں کی رائے بھی اپنی اسٹیٹ منٹ کے اندر دی جس پر بہت سارے ممبر ایجی ٹیٹڈ ہوتے نے اخباروں میں پڑھا کہ وزیر اعظم نے اس معاملہ کو بہت اہم سمجھا اور آپ کو ہدایت دی وہاں جانے کی۔ لیکن آپ جب وہاں پہنچے اور آپ نے جو کچھ بھی اپنے اسٹیٹ منٹ میں لکھا ہے اس سے یہ نتیجہ نکلتا ہے کہ آپ کو یہ معاملہ اتنا اہم نہیں لگا کہ اس کی انکوائری سی۔ بی۔ آئی سے کرائی جائے۔ آپ نے ایک جگہ لکھا ہے کہ۔

"The explosion did not appear to have been caused by use of RDX explosives."

اسی میں آپ نے لکھا ہے کہ۔

"Considering the nature of the explosion, it is felt that the State police can efficiently investigate the case."

کئی ممبران نے یہ بات اٹھائی کہ جس طرح سے بمبئی میں بم بلاسٹ ہوتے کلکتہ میں ہوتے اس کی ایک تیسری کڑی اس کو اشارۃ کہا ہے۔ لیکن آپ کے اس اسٹیٹ منٹ سے کم سے کم یہ ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ آپ کے خیال میں آر۔ ڈی۔ ایکس اس میں استعمال نہیں ہوا۔ اس کا نتیجہ ایسا نہیں ہے کہ جس سے پتہ لگے کہ فارن ہینڈ ہے یا نہیں ہے۔ غالباً آپ نے اس کو اس لئے ضروری سمجھا کہ اس کی سی۔ بی۔ آئی۔ انکوائری کرانے کے بجائے اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹ کو

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

آخر میں یہ کہوں گا کہ آر۔ایس۔ایس کے دفتر میں حملہ ہوا ہے اور خود آر۔ایس۔ایس کے لیڈرس اور ہمارے بی۔جے۔پی کے لیڈرس کے اس سلسلے میں کافی بیانات آئے ہیں۔ یہ بڑا ہی تشویشناک معاملہ ہے اس معاملے میں بمبئی کو بہت سے لوگ جوڑ رہے ہیں۔ کلکتہ کو جوڑ رہے ہیں۔ دہلی اور دوسرے بڑے شہروں میں آر۔ایس۔ایس کے دفتر ہیں تو اگر آر۔ایس۔ایس والے خود منع کریں کہ ہم کو سیکیورٹی نہیں چاہیئے تب بھی کیا آپ سیکیورٹی لگائیں گے اور سنٹرل انٹلی جنس ایجنسیز سے آر۔ایس۔ایس کے دفتروں پر نظر رکھیں گے اگر رکھیں گے تو بتائیں اور نہیں رکھیں گے تو بتائیں۔]

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is not a question whether the explosion was because of RDX material. The issue is that there was an explosion. What is the purpose in mentioning whether the explosion was due to RD material or not? The problem is people have been killed out of the explosion which occured, whatever might be the material. It is true that law and order is a state subject. But when the Chief Minister of the State wants the case to be handed over to the Centre for CBI inquiry, I do not think that there should be any attempt on the part of the Minister to avoid it or bypass it by saything that it will be done at a future point of time after the first round of investigation is done by the State Government agency.

There is one more thing I am worried about. Just now my friend from the other

تھے۔ میں بالکل اس کو جائز سمجھتا ہوں۔ جب آپ نے یہ اسٹیٹ منٹ دیا تھا اس کی روشنی میں دیا۔ آر۔ایس۔ایس کے لوگوں نے جو رائے دی ہے اس ایکسپلوجن کے بارے میں آپکو اس کو بھی استعمال کرنا چاہیئے تھا تو ایسا کیوں نہیں کیا۔ یہ آپ نے دو اسٹینڈرڈ کس لئے بناتے ہیں۔ کیا اس لئے کہ جہاں سرکار کانگریس کی ہوگی وہاں آپکی اٹیشن دوسری ہوگی اور جہاں غیر کانگریس سرکار ہوگی وہاں اسٹیٹ منٹ دوسری ہوگی۔

آخر میں ایک بات اور میں یہ کہنا چاہوں گا کہ بمبئی کے اندر جو بم بلاسٹ ہوئے اس کا پہلا نشانہ تھا شو سینا کا دفتر۔ شو سینا کے دفتر پر یہ ہوا تھا۔ کلکتہ میں ایسا نہیں ہوا۔ مدراس میں آر۔ایس۔ایس کے دفتر میں بلاسٹ ہوا۔ مدھیہ پردیش کے اندر کچھ دن پہلے ایک ممبر پارلیمنٹ سٹینگ ممبر کے گھر پر بم بلاسٹ ہوا تھا کیا سرکار نے غور کیا ہے کہ اس ممبر کے گھر پر ہونے والا بلاسٹ اور مدراس میں ہونے والا بلاسٹ ایک ہی نیچر کا ہے کیا اس پر سرکار غور کرے گی اور کیا اسٹیٹ کو ہدایت دیگی کہ اس پہلو سے جائزہ لیا جائے۔

side spoke about it. The RSS offices are attacked. You stated that the RSS offices were guarded by the police but they did not want it and said their volunteers would do it. But the issue is very sensitive because it was the RSS which was banned earlier. From the time the ban was lifted, it has become a sensitive affair with the probability of communal provocation because certain feelings among the people have been created. Though law and order is a State affair, this is of all-India character because it may spark off reactions anywhere. The Hon. member of BJP has already mentioned about the importance of the building, who were there and all that this indicates.

The third point I would like to seek clarification on is this. Does the Central Government make a distinction between the States ruled by other parties and the States ruled by the party in power at the Centre? As pointed out by the hon. Member, Mr. Afzal, when it was West Bengal, it was not the State Government's opinion that was reported here; but in the other two cases, you had collected the reports from the State Governments and presented them here. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government makes a distinction based on which party or which group rules which State.

SHRI T.A. MOHAMMED SAQHY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Tamil Nadu which had been a land of peace, 'an oasis of peace', is now witnessing storms of violence, blown by the continuous law and order problem. I would like to know from the Minister when he received the first information regarding the bomb blast. Secondly, when did the Commissioner of Police get the information and when did he give the information to the Chief Minister or the Home Minister? Has any untoward incident taken place after the bomb blast? Reportedly, one person belonging to a particular community was stabbed to death in Tiruppur. Thirdly, why has the Governor not been informed of the bomb blast immediately? What was the action, follow-up action, taken by the State regarding the July conversation between the Home Minister and the Chief Minister? Why have they failed to take follow-up action regarding the information or the warning given by the Minister for Home Affairs? Is it a fact that the Chief Minister visited the place of occurrence twenty long hours after the incident had taken place? Has anybody been apprehended so far in connection with the incidents, the bomb blast and the stabbing? I would like to know these things from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JAGMOHAN (Nominated): Madam, the main point which I would like to seek clarification on is about the time-device. What is your assessment as to when the device was planted and when it actually exploded. What is the time-gap between them? That is very material.

The second point is that you seem to be working under the impression that since it is not RDX, it may not be part of the overall design to destabilise the country. Those who are intending to destabilise the country are not so unwise people that they will repeat the same process at two places. They would naturally apply different devices at different places to mislead you.

The third point is that when you went to Tamil Nadu in July, you shared your anxiety with the State Government about some underground activity that was going on there. Was it the ISI or was it the LTTE or was it some other subversive organisation from whom you expected some threats? That needs to be specified.

The fourth point is about the RDX or other explosives which have come into this country. What, according to your estimate, still remains to be taken care of, to be detected and also to be recovered?

Is any coordination being done between the various State Governments to see where this RDX has been hidden and what energetic steps are being taken to ensure that it is recovered? Otherwise, this will certainly blow up in some place like Delhi. There is an alert no doubt for a week or ten days and then everybody later on relaxes and some incident takes place and this circle is know to the people who plant these devices.

Lastly, the issue is that the intelligence report which comes to you—the quality of this report—is very important, that is,

[Sh. Jagmohan]

"likely to happen". But in this case was there any pinpointed information available with the State Government or with the Central Government that the RSS office or some other office of this nature was under threat because when an incident takes place, communal riots take place, some other problems take place? Was any specific and pinpointed information available with the people, with the IB or with the State agencies and if that was available, what precise action did they take to keep a watch over these incidents?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Karnataka): Madam, this is one matter which greately perturbs me. This blast took place on the 8th of August, 1993 at 13.45 hours and the hon. Minister went there on the 9th of August, 1993 and he held discussions with the Chief Minister and the other State Government officials. Now, the 7th paragraph of the statement records that the Chief Minister had also visited the site of explosion. During discussions, the State Government officials showed the Minister a small container with some used explosives, copper wire and a transformer which was recovered from the site. Now, this is what is really very disturbing that if the investigation had taken place on the very first day, these instruments of the offence, which were found at the scene of offence, must have been taken charge of by the police under what we call in this part of the country a *Panchnama* and in Madras, I believe, they call it a *Mazernama* and they are sealed immediately with the signatures of witnesses and sent to the forensic laboratory. Now, how is it that these were floating around till after 24 hours and the hon. Minister was able to have a look at them?

The second thing which is bothering me is that though the hon. Minister says that we have provided them expert assistance and the experts are looking into—presumably experts both of the Central Government as well as the State Government—and the explosives experts would be able to determine the nature of the explosion, how is it that the hon. Minister came to the conclsuion that this is not a case of RDX and since the CBI is supposed to investigate only the cases of RDX, the CBI should not investigate this particular case? This is something very mystifying and I would like to have an explanation, when the hon. Minister has said that it does not appear a case of RDX, whether he is referring to the explosives taken charge of regularly in the course of proper investigation or whether he is talking about explosives which were found in the small container, which was displayed to him at the discussions which he had with the Chief Minister.

Then, in paragraph 6, the Minister referred to the visit which has attracted the attention of other Members of the House also. I would like to know whether, after the Bombay blasts, it did occur to some Central authority particularly about this missing RDX. So much has been supposed to have been imported, on the basis of the statements supplied by witnesses, and only a part of it has been discovered and some part of it is still missing. Did anybody decide that we are going to put up a rigorous search in all the metropolitan areas of the cities of the country and find out about this RDX which is missing And when the Minister had a discussion with the local officials there which he referred to in paragraph 6, was there even in the month of July a reference to this missing RDX and was any attempt thereafter made to assess whether there are any chances of RDX being found in the city of Madras?

The fourth point which is again intriguing me is this. In this third paragraph of your statement it is stated, "Sniffer dogs have been used to find out the cause of the explosion." I know that dogs are used regularly in the course of investigation but dogs have a sixth sense of smell. If you show them one particular object, they take you to the place where that object might be lying or they might take you to the persons who are associated or have been associated with that object. But I want to know what it is that these sniffer dogs will be determining. The cause of the explosion? Ultimately the role of the CBI and the Police has been assigned to sniffer dogs. This is a little intriguing and I should be really informed about this particular aspect of the matter—what the role of the sniffer dog is during this kind of investigation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mody, do you still want to ask questions or is it just an observation?

SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY (Rajasthan): The sequence of events, Madam, that have been occurring in the country today is, Bombay blasts, followed by red alert, followed by total relaxation; Calcutta blasts, red alert, relaxation; Madras blasts, red alert. I feel under this situation it is highly embarrassing for the Ministry that blast after blast is taking place and the Ministry is not able to identify what is happening. Does this mean that after a slumber once again there is going to be yet another blast? I would suggest that in this context the only thing administratively ideal would be not just a CBI inquiry but the same core team of CBI should go into all the blasts and try to find out whether there is some commonality, whether there is something that could be found, however minor, which could possibly lead to a major discovery, as to who could possibly be behind this. If you have different State Governments, different investigating agencies and the CBI doing it, you may get nowhere. There could be so many commonalities of the situations in these given blasts and a very minor one could give you a lead and you could identify the culprits, so that at least the Government should not be embarrassed again that yet another blast could take place and that is it. My simple question to the hon. Minister, therefore, is: why is there hesitation in instituting a CBI inquiry?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, there have been various queries from hon. Members. In general, I think, there is one feeling—why there is not a CBI inquiry. This is what most of the Members have felt. One question which was specially asked was, what the result of my visit was Sikandar Bakhtji also asked it. I had personally gone there. I had visited both the places, Bombay and Calcutta. I had personally seen the explosion sites. I had seen the effect after the explosion. So, I was equally interested to see that my efforts as an Internal Security Minister and the steps which were put in would add to my education, would add to my knowledge, would add to my efforts. When I reached there, I met all the people who were there. It is a fact, as Mr. Rajagopal said, that it is a residence also. When I went to the first floor, I found all the rooms intact, their clothes were there, the scooters which were parked were parked. I, as a layman, have said it there—Mr. Jethmalani is saying how I could say that it is not an RDX—that as a layman I have seen both the blast sites and I personally feel that there is no similarity in the blasts at Bombay and the blasts at Madras, in this building. I saw the building tilting like this in Bombay. I could see a crater created where the blast took place. Here when I went to the building, I could see the room which had fallen with a portico roof, and I talked to all the people who were in the hospital. I asked them, "Did you hear the blast? What was the blast like" Combining all the efforts I came to a conclusion that I should have a word with the State Government. When I had a discussion with the hon. Chief Minister, when we were in a meeting, the DG, Police gave me a component and said, "This has been recovered from the debris". When I saw it, I found a copper wire of nearly two feet or may be more than that——it was twisted—and a transformer and a small container which was carrying some explosives, blown off from the top. I was discussing with them and I saw this container which they were carrying, which got exploded. They had given it to the experts. On that basis I talked to the Chief Minister, the DG, Police and everybody and asked what their opinion was "Is it RDX? What do you feel about it? What is the information that you have got?" I must tell the House that the Chief Minister and I are of the same opinion that it could be some different explosive. It certainly doesn't look like RDX. Now if Ms. Jayalalitha is an expert to say that it is RDX I am equally an expert to say that it cannot be RDX. Some people from that side pointed out that it is RDX but of a smaller quantity. Somebody said, "Mr. Pilot, it could be of a smaller quantity." I agreed with him that it could be possible. So, immediately I told her, "Whatever experts you want from Delhi we will send them and a combined team must do it immediately."

Madam, they have referred to my July meeting. Every Member of Parliament has referred to it and they wanted to know for what I had gone there and what discussions

[Sh. Rajesh Pilot]

I had with her. I share the scenario which my colleagues have stated. Friends from that side will bear me out. This is my opinion. Sikanderji may not appreciate it and he may not agree with it. He has his right to disagree with me. But after 6th of December, 1992, the security scenario in this country has really deteriorated. I must accept it in front of the House. I must not hide it from the House. The feeling among the people, the feeling among different sections of the society, has taken a different shape. Let me explain here. One of the gentlemen standing at the RSS headquarters said, "Please ensure, Mr. Pilot, if a Muslim is involved he will not be spared." How has this feeling come in this country? I was hurt. I was hurt with the statement of the young man. I had to tell him, "Nobody is above the law. Anybody who is involved will be punished, will be brought to book." But let me tell the House what the feelings, in fact, are. Let us not run away from the facts. I am not saying that tomorrow morning I will stop all the explosions and there wouldn't be any security lapse anywhere. We are all human beings. There could be lapses. There could be mistakes. Why had I been to Madras on that day, Madam? I went not only to Tamil Nadu but also to Karnataka and held meetings with the Chief Ministers, with the intelligence officers, with the intelligence agencies, with the DIGs of Police and I shared with them the total scenario. I told them, "In the western coast there has been a lot of off-loading of RDX. We have this information. I am worried about the southern coast now. Please take all the precautions." As an hon. Member has stated, the hon. Chief Minister did ask for two naval detachments. I immediately contacted the naval headquarters. Yesterday, when I was in her office, I immediately talked to them. They were saying, "As per the naval information these are the two points, one is south of Rameswaram and the other is north of it, which we need to watch." They also said, "Please tell the State Government that they must take action against the fishermen. Sometimes when we put up their cases, they have not taken them strongly." I explained to her the naval problems. They promised me that they would put two more naval detachments, if the Chief Minister wanted. She wanted some more modern equipment and modern arms. We allocated five hundred AK-47s immediately, whatever that day she demanded. She wanted some more financial assistance. I said, "You please talk to the Finance Minister. I will also put up your case." But that was my exercise all over the country.

Madam, I went to Andhra Pradash. I went to Tamil Nadu. I went to Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. One day I had some information in the evening that some RDX was passing through Madhya Pradesh. I flew at 2 0' clock in the night. I had to say sorry to the Governor, who is an old gentleman, for waking him up at 2.45 in the night and I told him, "I have come and I had no other option. I don't want any incident to happen in Madhya Pradesh." We caught a truck the next day. We shared the information with them and the next day we caught a truck which was on its way from Jabalpur to some other place. Whatever efforts we from the Government side could make we are trying to do. We are in a very serious political scenario. Let us not take it lightly, Madam. I must tell the House that we have to be very alert, we have to be very cautious. That is what I requested the hon. Chief Minister that day. "You have to take extra precaution. The southern part is peaceful today. Let there not be any incident in the coastal areas. Let there not be any problem in the coastal areas of southern parts." She promised to do that. Let me also inform the House that we have started a new system in the Ministry, first at the DM level and later at the State level. There was not much of a sharing of information or co-ordination among the officers of different agencies. The Intelligence Bureau thinks that its duty is just to inform Delhi or the Minister in the State Government or the DG at the State headquarters level or the Chief Minister. We have issued instructions that every week on every Monday in every district headquarters the IB officers, the CID officers, the district administration and the police must share the information. It is for the nation that such information is given. It is not for the North Block or the South Block that such information is needed. It is needed for the common man. We have

started co-ordinating the agencies at the DG level every month.....(*Interruptions*.)...

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: The hon. Minister has mentioned about coordination. He is aware that there is lack of coordination not only between the police and the Home Department officers but other departments also. For example, when a ship came near the Kerala coast, it was suspected to be carrying arms, etc. There was quarrel between the Customs Department and the police and in the meanwhile the ship escaped. Therefore, coordination is necessary between these two sections also.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Yes, it is true. If coordination is not smooth and effective, we will not be able to achieve results. I have written letters to all the Chief Ministers saying "Please confirm once in a month that your DG, my IB officer, your CID officers and other agencies sit together and exchange notes." I have also told them, "Please send a report once in three months about the discussion and what action has been taken." It is not a discussion only.

There should be accountability also. If some information is given, what action has the State Government taken? I shared with her the total scenario. She was very happy and she said, "We will do this and we will cooperate further." When this thing happened on 8th August, I again talked to her and asked, "What are your views?" She said in exact words, "Why does not the CBI take over?" I told her, "You have got the information. You have discovered some container and your officers are on the job." I did not say that the CBI will not take over. I said, "You continue the investigation. If at any time you feel that the ramifications are wider, we are open." I did not say that the CBI will not take over. I said, "You please continue your investigations." I told this because we want that the culprits must be booked at the earliest. I totally share the views of Mr. Mody that these blasts do create panic in the minds of the citizens and they do create panic in the country. That is how these things are happening. I have been writing very often to the State Governments that although law and order is a State subject, the security scenario is so serious that we must cooperate and we must talk to each other and discuss matters more often and take effective steps.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: At what time did you receive the information on 8th August?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I can understand your question. Let me tell you one thing. When I reached there, they told me that the Chief Minister did not go to the site on that day. She went there the next day. When we were talking about it, she on her own said, "Mr. Pilot, when I was boarding the plane, at 3 o'clock I was told that blast had taken place. So, complete information was not available with me. That is why I went off."

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I want to know whether she was informed that 11 persons were killed because the Commissioner of Police reached there within 15 minutes. At what time did you receive the information from Madras on that day?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I did convey the same feeling to her. At the airport itself, people asked me, "What do you feel about it?" I said, "Yes, there is a communication gap in the system. If some incident takes place at 1.45 p.m. and till 3 o'clock the Chief Minister is not aware of it, there is some fault in the system." I said it at the airport. When I asked her about it, she explained to me that this was the reason. Then I rang up and told her that I would like to come there because I wanted to know how it could happen. Then they have mentioned about one gentlemen's name. It is a fact. Mr. Rajagopal has mentioned that somebody has mentioned about this particular gentleman. I immediately informed the Chief Minister about it in my meeting. I asked her, "Did he say this any time?" She told me about the history of this particular gentleman. She told me that he had been booked under TADA and NSA for some time. I was informed in the afternoon when I came back from Manipur that he has been booked under the NSA and further action is being taken.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: At what time did you receive the information?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, I have already answered his question. I have told what was conveyed by the Chief Minister. I got the information between 3 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. I am not very accurate. I did not really look at the watch.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You told the Press that you got the information by 2.45 p.m.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I told the Press that I received the informations at round about that time. I did not give the exact time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next time, God forbid, if something happens, please keep a watch with you.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): It is a serious question that a blast took place and almost the whole of Madras knew it. In fact, I also came to know from telephone calls from Madras. But the Chief Minister says, "I did not know"...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am talking about the Minister...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The Minister says that he came to know at 2.45 in Delhi. But the Chief Minister did not know even at 3 o'clock in Madras, living in Madras. So it means something is fishy there. The second thing I would like the Minister to know...(*Interruptions*)... I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is very easy to blame this Palani Baba. He is a rabble rouser and an extremist. But he is totally a singleton. That explosion could not have been done by a singleton. It must be a much bigger organisation and therefore, the Minister needs to know about these timings—why is there a time gap, a communication gap?...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am telling him—to keep a check on time...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: No, it is not a stop-watch. It is not a question of a stop-watch, whether five minutes here or there...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How will he know the time? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: No, Madam Deputy Chairman, this is not in that sense, in that spirit. I am not saying that she was sleeping and that she needs a stop-watch to be woken up or something. I am only saying that she went out of this town well after the explosion and even much after the Home Minister came to know about it. The question is, why? That is what needs to be investigated...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Stop-watch does not wake people...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He himself has stated...(*Interruptions*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What I am saying...(*Interruptions*)... The thing is that it is the alarm-clock which wakes people. Stop-watch makes people record the time. So that is what I am telling the hon. Minister so that he can fix the time...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Stop-watch will tell the time interval between two events. It can tell him the time between the Bombay explosion and the Madras explosion—how much time has elapse. But it cannot tell him exactly the time...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The second point mentioned is about the party Governments in different States...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You are not answering...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He does not want to answer because he knows the truth and the truth is very shocking ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: No, no. I am not hiding anything from the House. Whatever discussion I had with her, I have explained it to you. She mentioned this, "at the airport when I was boarding, I was told that a blast has taken place." Complete information was not with her. That is what she told me which I have shared with the House...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madam, just one interruption and no more interruptions. This State has been having a series of jail-breaks. There have been a large number of journalists who have been blown up in explosions. This one happens. This gets attention. Now the Minister says that it is totally peaceful there. It is not at all peaceful. There is utter breakdown of law and order in Tamil Nadu and that is why this time gap...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: According to Mr. Swamy there is no peace. But when compared to all the 22 States, Tamil Nadu is extremely peaceful. It is the only State which is extremely peaceful because of the effective measures taken by our hon. Chief Minister. You cannot go beyond that fact...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At least, the House was very peaceful till Mr. Swamy arrived...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have said, the RDX which came during that period is a matter of concern. I have been insisting, I am writing, I am keeping track and we are on the job in every State, in every part of the country and let me assure the House that we are totally concerned about it—where is the quantity, how much has come and how much has been recovered and what is left. All efforts are being made to trace it out. And also about the security scenario, I would assure the House that I feel and the Government feels that the underworld is the prime resource or the prime source for all such activities, all these blasts and all these communal riots. It is the vested interests that use the black money or whatever badly earned money they have. The Government has set up a group under the Home Secretary assisted by Director, IB, Director, CBI, Secretary, RAW, Secretary, Customs or Chairman, Customs, the four of them. We have asked this group to submit a report within three months about who all have connections with the underworld. It could be anybody in this country, whether politician or a bureaucrat or a common man or a businessman. This country cannot afford to have such a situation. That is why we have set up this group and I am very sure that we will be able to know the facts soon. The investigations into the Bombay blasts have given us some clues. Therefore, it is not that nothing is happening on that. Some clues are coming and very good information is coming to link the system and the source from where these activities are being guided or are being handled. Let me assure the House that the Government will do its best. But we need support from all corners. Security is not a simple thing which one person can do or which only the Government can do. It needs support from all over to have complete harmony in the country. Now when such statements are given at the headquarters, where 200 people are listening, one message goes and then the other message comes and that is why half of the problem comes. So, I am sure that with the support of all the hon. Members, we shall be able to curb these activities and be able to book all those people who are involved in it. I once again assure the House that any time the Government of Tamil Nadu feels that there are wider ramifications, they are most welcome. We have not closed the option of a CBI enquiry. We have not said that we would not hold a CBI enquiry. But I have requested her. "Please go ahead, because at an early stage investigations are much easier and those people who are connected with it can be found easily." Also one question was asked as to what the Government was going to do in future. As I have said, for coordination at the district level, the intelligence agencies have been told to give a feed-back to the district level authorities. We have also written to all the State Governments, "Please take precautions on all the sensitive locations and on all the sensitive individuals." There is risk involved. But we are taking all precautions and I am personally monitoring the activities. I agree that there could have been some time left, some more time for following it. We are doing our best but if some more efforts are required,

[Sh. Rajesh Pilot]

I can assure the House that the Government will not lag behind ...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now that is over...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. A. BABY: Madam, the Minister has given us a very good assurance and he has also said that some enquiries would be conducted to find out the underworld connections, ill-gotten money and things like that. When such reports are in possession of the Government, if some committee asks for such information, the Government should not say that they do not keep such records for more than two weeks and things like that. This is my only request.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I assure the Members that with a very honest intention, with a sincere intention, the Government has ordered the investigation. Let me also tell you that it is a first-time order. It is our Government which has ordered it to know the underworld connections. And I assure you that nothing will be forbidden from the House and the country. We shall put the facts before the country saying that these are the people who are involved in destabilising our country. There is no love lost for anybody.

To the last question which Mr. Afzal has asked, I would like to say that security is above everything. There is no concession for any party. We should not have a feeling that just because so-and-so party is running the Government there, we have a different thing. For us, law is the guiding factor. It does not matter whether the security is for Mr. Subramanian Swamy or Rajesh Pilot. Law is above everybody.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: But what about lawyers who defend the criminals?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now that matter is over. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Now we have another Minister waiting here since morning. There is one Bill which is the Cable Television Networks Regulation Bill, 1993...(*Interruptions*)

RE. NEED TO REFER THE CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL, 1993 TO THE CONCERNED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, we are for referring the Bill to the Standing Committee: (*Interruptions*)

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Let it go to the Standing Committee...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): It should be referred to the Standing Committee ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We all plead that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister say what he wants to say. Right now there is no need for everybody to say...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, there is a reason as to why we suggest that the Bill should go to the Standing Committee. It is not as a normal practice. It is not as a part of the ritualistic practice. This Bill contains a number of important clauses which, in our opinion, can be taken advantage of; then the Government in power taking advantage of this Bill which will turn into an Act, may order..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, I have understood it in one word...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: There was a decision that all the Bills should go to the Standing Committees. Moreover, this Bill has to be referred to the Standing Committee because of its nature and the power it would give to the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): Which Government?